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5 June 1991

BACKGROUND NOTE BY THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ON THE SUMMER ORGANIZATIONAL SESSION*

INTRODUCTION

1. The present information note has been prepared as background for the summer organizational session of the Executive Board for the year 1 August 1991 to 31 July 1992. Under the Board's rules of procedure (E/ICEF/177/Rev.5, rule 12), the organizational session of the Board to elect officers for the Board year beginning 1 August shall take place following its regular Board session, and after the session of the Economic and Social Council, which holds elections for new Board members. This year's summer organizational session is scheduled for 5 June 1991 at United Nations Headquarters and will also elect the representatives of the Board to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)/UNICEF Joint Committee on Education (JCE). In addition, elections will be held to fill vacancies on the UNICEF/World Health Organization (WHO) Joint Committee on Health Policy (JCHP). The provisional agenda for this meeting is contained in document E/ICEF/1991/L.17.

2. Participants at the organizational session will be members who will constitute the Executive Board as at 1 August. The term of office of the Board and committee chairmen is one year. Rule 12 of the rules of procedure (E/ICEF/177/Rev.5) states:

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* Information on Executive Board membership for 1 August 1991 to 31 July 1992 will be issued as document E/ICEF/1991/L.18/Add.1 immediately following election of new Board members by the Economic and Social Council.

"... The Chairman of the Board and the Chairmen of the Programme Committee and the Committee on Administration and Finance shall not, apart from exceptional cases as decided by the Board, be re-elected for a consecutive term. Other officers of the Board shall be eligible for re-election, taking into account the desirability of reasonable rotation."

Composition

3. The nine officers of the Executive Board are:

Chairman	Vice-chairmen
	First
	Second
	Third
	Fourth

Programme Committee	Committee on Administration and Finance
Chairman	Chairman
Vice-Chairman	Vice-Chairman

Criteria

4. The only formal criteria for the election of officers of the Executive Board are found in the rules of procedure (see para. 2 above).

5. Over the years unwritten conventions concerning elections have developed, which are generally followed:

(a) In the election of its Chairman, the Board follows three main guidelines: (i) the Chairman should be a person who has had experience in the work of the Board through prior service on the Bureau; (ii) there should be a rotation of the chairmanship between members from developing and industrialized countries; and (iii) geographical regions should be represented in an equitable manner (E/ICEF/651, para. 202);

(b) Among the Board officers there should be reasonable balance between donor and recipient nations and among the five regional groups (Africa, Asia, Eastern Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean and Western Europe and others);

(c) When the Chairman is from a developing country, the First Vice-Chairman is usually from an industrialized country and vice versa. The same tradition applies for the Chairmen and vice-chairmen of the committees;

(d) The Chairmen of the two committees usually consist of one from an industrialized country and one from a developing country;

(e) Permanent members of the Security Council do not serve as officers.

6. These conventions are regarded as Board traditions. In addition, three other factors concerning the composition of the Bureau are considered desirable: (a) that women be represented; (b) that some of the officers be based in New York; and (c) that the Nordic countries are usually represented to reflect the scale of their financial contributions.

Process

7. It is customary that the outgoing Bureau members, under the leadership of the Chairman, informally discuss the composition of the next Bureau with interested candidates and regional groups in order to facilitate a consensus.

I. OFFICERS OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD, 1 AUGUST 1990-31 JULY 1991

8. For the year ending 31 July 1991, the officers of the Executive Board, by name, are as follows:

Chairman: Mrs. Lisbet Palme (Sweden)

First Vice-Chairman: H.E. Ms. Mira Seth (India)

Second Vice-Chairman: Mr. Vaclav Vacek (Czechoslovakia)

Third Vice-Chairman: H.E. Mr. Ramiro Piriz Ballon (Uruguay)

Fourth Vice-Chairman: Miss Chipo Zindoga (Zimbabwe)

II. PROGRAMME COMMITTEE

9. The Programme Committee is constituted as a committee of the whole. For the year ending 31 July 1991, the Board elected Mr. Gabriel Fernandez (Liberia) as Chairman of the Programme Committee and Mr. Iftekhar Ahmed Chowdhury (Bangladesh) as Vice-Chairman.

III. COMMITTEE ON ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE

10. The Committee on Administration and Finance is constituted as a committee of the whole. For the year ending 31 July 1991, the Board elected Mr. Frederick Ward (Canada) as Chairman of the Committee on Administration and Finance and Mrs. Judith Springer (Barbados) as Vice-Chairman.

IV. CRITERIA GOVERNING ELECTION OF UNICEF REPRESENTATIVES ON JOINT COMMITTEES

11. The terms of reference of the composition of the recently established UNESCO/UNICEF Joint Committee on Education were modelled after those of the

long-standing UNICEF/WHO Joint Committee on Health Policy. These stipulate that UNICEF Board representatives on the Committee will include the chairmen of the Executive Board and the Programme Committee as ex officio members, four representatives elected in their personal capacity and two elected alternates. Elections for JCE were to be held in odd years, to alternate with those for JCHP in even years, based on past practice of a joint committee meeting being held only biennially.

12. However, JCE met twice in its first biennium (1989-1991) and JCHP is scheduled to meet twice in its present biennium (1990-1992). Given the foregoing, and in light of the fact that the ex officio members will, of necessity, change annually, the officers of the Board expressed, during the 1991 regular Board session, their concern that a full complement of membership in such committees should be guaranteed to the extent possible.

13. Accordingly, in decision 1991/3, the Executive Board amended the criteria governing the election of UNICEF Board representatives on JCHP and on JCE as follows: "... (a) The number of elected alternates should be increased to four; (b) In electing its representatives to the joint committees, the Board should ensure the election of those who represent countries that will be on the Executive Board for at least two additional years."

14. There are no written rules governing the composition of the UNICEF delegation beyond the Board's decision that representatives may not serve for more than two terms consecutively, unless they become ex officio representatives. However, prevailing unwritten conventions developed over the years and generally followed stipulate that due regard should be given (a) to elect representatives who have experience in both the UNICEF Executive Board and in the areas of health or education, as appropriate and (b) to ensure a balance between developing and industrialized countries. The Chairman of the UNICEF Executive Board may undertake informal consultations prior to the summer organizational session in order to expedite consensus.

V. UNESCO/UNICEF JOINT COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

15. For the 1989-1991 biennium, the composition of the UNICEF Board representatives on JCE was as follows:

Chairman, Executive Board	
Mrs. Margarita Dieguez, Mexico	Ex officio member
Chairman, Programme Committee	
Mr. Frank Majoor, Netherlands	Ex officio member
Dame Nita Barrow	Barbados
Mrs. Yvette Le Quellec	France
Mr. Gabriel Fernandez	Liberia
Mr. Banjong Choosakulchart	Thailand

Alternates

Mrs. Theresa C. Garuba	Nigeria
H.E. Mr. Stanislaw Trepczynski	Poland

VI. UNICEF/WHO JOINT COMMITTEE ON HEALTH POLICY

16. For the 1990-1992 biennium, the composition of the UNICEF Board representatives on the UNICEF/WHO Joint Committee on Health Policy was as follows:

Chairman, Executive Board Mrs. Lisbet Palme, Sweden	Ex officio member
Chairman, Programme Committee Mr. Gabriel Fernandez, Liberia	Ex officio member
Mrs. Esther Ashton	Bolivia
Mrs. Elsie Mbella Ngomba	Cameroon
Dr. Suyono Yahya	Indonesia
Dr. Audrey Manley	United States of America

Alternates

Mrs. Judith Springer	Barbados
Dr. Burkhard Schneeweiss	German Democratic Republic

17. At its organizational session of 10 January 1991, the Executive Board elected Dr. Vaclav Vacek of Czechoslovakia to replace Dr. Burkhard Schneeweiss of the German Democratic Republic, following the accession of the German Democratic Republic to the Federal Republic of Germany.